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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

The American Society of Microscopists.—This association, now in the thirteenth year of its existence, will hold its fourteenth annual meeting in Washington, D. C., August 10th, and continue in session five days. Its roll of active members contains about three hundred and fifty names, embracing very nearly every person in the United States who is at all prominent as a microscopist. Its membership consists of two distinct classes,—viz., professional men and students of the natural sciences, who use the microscope in their daily avocations as an instrument of research, diagnosis, or precision; and amateurs, or those who find pleasure and profit in the revelations of the instrument. Many of the latter class, from having early chosen special lines of study and investigation, have acquired high reputations in their respective departments of microscopical research. In its earlier years this class predominated in the membership of the society, but at present the professional element is largely in excess.

The sixty-first meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will commence on Wednesday, August 19th, 1891, at Cardiff, Wales, under the direction of the following officers: President elect, William Huggins, Esq., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., F.R.A.S.; vice presidents elect, The Right Hon. Lord Windsor, Lord Lieutenant of Glamorganshire; The Most Hon. The Marquis of Bute, K.T.; The Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh, M.A., D.C.L., LL.D., Sec.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S.; The Right Hon. Lord Tredegar; The Right Hon. Lord Aberdare, G.C.B., F.R.S., F.R.G.S.; Sir J. T. D. Llewelyn, Bart., F.Z.S.; Archibald Geikie, Esq., For.Sec.R.S., F.R.S.E., Pres.G.S., Director-General of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom; general treasurer, Prof. A. W. Williamson, Ph.D., LL.D., F.R.S., V.P.C.S., 17 Buckingham Street, London, W. C.; general secretaries, Captain Sir Douglas Galton, K.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.G.S.; A. G. Vernon Harcourt, Esq., M.A., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., F.C.S.; assistant general secretary, G. Griffith, Esq., M.A., F.C.S.; local secretaries for the meeting at Cardiff, R. W. Atkinson, Esq., B.Sc., F.C.S., F.I.C.; Prof. H. W. Lloyd Tanner, M.A., F.R.A.S., Bank Buildings, Cardiff; local treasurers for the meeting at Cardiff, T. Forster Brown, Esq., M.Inst. C.E.; Henry Heywood, Esq., J.P., F.C.S.

Ogden N. Rood, A.M., Professor of Physics in Columbia, says : "No member of this department is engaged in any commercial or outside work whatever. There is one feature of work in which some college professors are accustomed to indulge, which cannot be too strongly condemned. That is when a man under salary from a great university, trading on the name and fame of the institution, holds himself in readiness to testify as expert witness for a pecuniary consideration. This practice, I take it, is one which ought to be discouraged by the authorities of the colleges where it exists. The time of a college professor should be devoted to teaching and to original research, to the interests of the students, and to the advancement of science. The office should not be prostituted in such a manner by self-seekers and mercenary men. There is, so far as I know, only one institution where this practice is not known : that is at Johns Hopkins. The only reason that makes such expert testimony valuable in the eyes of the jury is the fact that the witness is an officer in a prominent institution of learning, and this looks, to me, like trading in the reputation of the college, and, to say the least, is a great breach of good taste."—*Scientific American*, May 23d, 1891.

Edmond André, the well-known student of the Hymenoptera, died in Beaune, January 11th, 1891.

Dr. Oscar Schultze is called to be extraordinary professor in the University of Würzburg.

Dr. Lewis E. Hicks, for the past six years professor of geology in the University of Nebraska, will leave his position at the close of the college year.

Dr. Dostoiewsky has been elected prosector of histology and embryology in the Medical School of St. Petersburg.

Antonio Stoppani, the Italian geologist, died January 1st, 1891.

Dr. Gustav Retzius, well known for his classic work on the vertebrate ear, has resigned his position in the University of Stockholm.